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AN

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

OF THE

DISCOVERY

OF

NEW HOLLAND

AND

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CONTAINING

An Account of the INHABITANTS, SOIL, ANIMALS, and other Productions of thoſe Countries, and including a particular Deſcription of

BOTANY BAY.

ILLUSTRATED

With a Chart of NEW HOLLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES, BOTANY BAY, and the New Diſcovered Iſlands in the North and South PACIFIC OCEAN, from 30 deg. N. to 50 deg. South Latitude, and from 90 to 225 deg. Longitude, Eaſt, from the Meridian of Greenwich.

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NEW SOUTH WALES.

AND

NEW HOLLAND

OR

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O F T H E

Diſcovery of New Holland, and New South Wales, &c.

THE determination of the Britiſh government to eſtabliſh a ſettlement in the Southern Pacific Ocean, has ſtrongly excited the public curioſity. As it is a very natural queſtion, What national benefit can ariſe from ſuch an eſtabliſhment? It is apprehended, that by drawing into one view, a faithful narrative of the progreſſive diſcoveries that have been made of the coaſts of that extenſive country, where the ſettlement is propoſed to be made, with ſome account of its productions, and a view of its relative ſituation, to thoſe other important diſcoveries of our late indefatigable circumnavigator; will tend, not merely to anſwer the enquiries of the ſpeculatiſt, but to prove its utility, in extending the commerce of the Britiſh nation, through thoſe extenſive tracts of population, which the induſtry of the preſent age has explored.

Leaving the enquiry how far the denſity, or weight, of land and water, are able to counterpoiſe each other, to the reſearches of the philoſophic mind; we ſhall only remark, that from the time of the diſcovery of America, it was a pretty generally received opinion, among geographers, that there was ſome vaſt undiſcovered continent ranging up towards the South Pole, to balance thoſe amazing tracts of land that abut upon the North Pole; and that it has for two hundred years, been the ambition of the intrepid navigator, to explore ſuch continent.

The firſt account we have of this country, is in a memorial delivered to the court of Spain, by Don Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, in 1609, in which he aſſerts, That, patronized by the Vice Roy of Peru, he had ſpent fourteen years, and travelled 20,000 leagues by land and ſea, in proſecuting diſcoveries. In this memorial he ſolicits for the neceſſary means to ſettle thoſe countries he had diſcovered, which he called a continent, equal in bigneſs to Europe and the Leſſer Aſia; he deſcribes the country as well ſupplied with the neceſſaries of life, yielding gold, ſilver, ſpices, and pearls, and filled with inhabitants of different colours. He alſo mentions the diſcovery of a clump of about twenty iſlands, which he firſt ſuppoſed to be all one country. Thoſe lands, agreeable to the cuſtom of that age, he took poſſeſſion of under the name of La Auſtrialia del Eſpiritu Santo, and lays them down as in and about 15 degrees of South latitude.

When we conſider the length of time that Don Pedro ſpent in this ſervice, that he took his departure from the coaſt of Peru, and that his courſe was to the Weſt, there is little doubt that the iſlands he mentions, were thoſe now called the New Hebrides; and that falling in with the North ſide of New Guinea, a country nearly anſwering his deſcription, both for produce and population, and being ignorant of the ſtrait that divides it from New South Wales, he might conſider thoſe two places, together with New Holland, as one vaſt continent.

From the time of De Quiros to the middle of the 17th century, we have no authentic relation of any diſcoveries of the Terra Auſtralis, or Southern Continent. We only know in general, that a Dutchman, in 1616, fell in with a part of its Weſt coaſt, between

24° and 25° South latitude, to which he gave the name of Eendraght Land. That in 1618, another part of this coaſt, nearly 15° S. was diſcovered by Zeachen, who gave it the name of Arnheim and Diemen. In 1619, Jan Van Edels, gave his name to a Southern part of it, and another tract of the coaſt between 30° and 38° received the name of Leuwen. In 1627, Peter Van Nuitz, gave his name to a coaſt which communicates with Leuwen's Land to the weſt; and about the ſame time, a great part of the weſt coaſt, near the tropic of Capricorn, received the name of De Wits. In 1628, Peter Carpenter, a Dutchman, explored the great gulph on the North coaſt, named the gulph of Carpentaria, which interſects the country near eight degrees of latitude. In June 1629, Captain Francis Pelſart, was wrecked on the weſt coaſt, in about 28° S. latitude, and his ſhip's company were left in the greateſt diſtreſs, upon three ſmall iſlands, until he could go back to Batavia for ſuccours, to which place the majority of them happily returned. There is no doubt but the greater part of thoſe commanders made ſome diſcoveries in the country; but whatever they were, they were ſuppreſſed, moſt probably, by order of the Dutch Eaſt India Company.

In the year 1642, Captain Abel Janſen Taſman, was ſent from Batavia for the expreſs purpoſe of making a perfect ſurvey of this country, which by this time had received the name of New Holland. That this taſk was faithfully performed, we have no reaſon to doubt, as the map of New Holland, delineated on the pavement of the Stadt-houſe at Amſterdam, was made from the lights afforded by his journal; but as the journal was never publiſhed entire, and probably was never intended to be publiſhed at all, we muſt be content with ſuch extracts as we have been able to procure.

Captain Taſman ſailed from Batavia in Auguſt 1642, with two ſhips, and on the 6th of November, was in latitude 49° 4′ South, longitude 114° 56′ Eaſt*. "At this time," ſays he, "as the weather was foggy, with hard gales, and a rolling ſea from the ſouth-weſt and from the ſouth, I concluded from thence, that it was not at all probable

* At this time the longitude was reckoned from the pike of Teneriffe, one of the Canary Iſlands, which lies 15° 28′ weſt of London, from whence our late circumnavigators have always computed the longitude.

there

there ſhould be any land between thoſe two points." This determined him to ſtand towards the north-eaſt; and "on the 24th of the ſame month, continues he, being in the latitude of 42° 25′ South, longitude 163° 50′, I diſcovered land, which lay eaſt-ſouth-eaſt, at the diſtance of ten miles, which I called Van Diemen's Land. The weather being bad, I ſteered ſouth-and-by-eaſt, along the coaſt to the height of 44° South, where the land runs away eaſt, and and afterwards north-eaſt-and-by-north. In the latitude 43° 10′, and longitude 167° 55′, I anchored on the 1ſt of December, in a bay, which I called the bay of Frederic Henry. I heard, or at leaſt fancied I heard, the ſound of people upon the ſhore; but I ſaw nobody. All I met with worth obſerving, were two trees, which were two fathoms or two fathoms and a half, in girth, and 60 or 65 feet high, from the root to the branches: they had cut with a flint, a kind of ſteps in the bark, in order to climb up to the birds neſts: theſe ſteps were at the diſtance of five feet from each other, ſo that we muſt conclude either thoſe people are of a prodigious ſize, or that they have ſome way of climbing trees that we are not uſed to: In one of the trees the ſteps were ſo freſh, that we judged they could not have been cut above four days. The noiſe we heard reſembled the noiſe of ſome ſort of a trumpet; it ſeemed to be at no great diſtance, but we ſaw no living creature notwithſtanding. I perceived alſo in the ſand, the marks of wild beaſts feet, reſembling thoſe of a tyger, or ſome ſuch creature; I gathered alſo ſome gum from the trees, and likewiſe ſome lack. The tide ebbs and flows there, about three feet. The trees in this country do not grow very cloſe, nor are they incumbered with buſhes, or underwood. I obſerved ſmoke in ſeveral places; however, we did nothing more, than ſet up a poſt, on which every one cut his name, or his mark, and upon which I hoiſted a flag. On December 5, I quitted Van Diemen's Land, and reſolved to ſteer eaſt."

As the remainder of the abſtract of Captain Taſman's journal relates entirely to his diſcoveries in other places, we next take a view of Captain Dampier's account of New Holland.

This able navigator ſailed from Achamack, in Virginia, in Auguſt 1683, on his firſt voyage round the world; and on the 4th of Jan. 1688, fell in with the coaſt of New Holland, in 16° 50′ latitude, and anchored

anchored in a deep bay, where he continued till the 12th of March following. Of this part of the country he gives the following account. " It was even, low, and ſandy ground, had no freſh water, except what was dug, but divers ſorts of trees, among the reſt, the Dragon-tree, which produces the gum-dragon. We ſaw neither fruit-trees, nor ſo much as the tract of any living animal, except one, which ſeemed to be the footſteps of a beaſt of the bigneſs of a large maſtiff dog. Some few land birds they have, but none bigger than a black-bird, and ſcarce any water fowl. Neither does the ſea afford any food, except tortoiſes and manatees, of both which they have great plenty. The inhabitants are the moſt miſerable wretches in the univerſe, having no houſes or covering but the heavens; no garments, except a piece of the bark of a tree, tyed like a girdle round the waiſt, no ſheep, poultry, or fruits, but feed upon a few fiſh, cockles, muſcles, and periwinkles; without religion or government, but cohabit promiſcuouſly. For the reſt, their bodies are ſtrait, thin, and ſtrong limbed, with great heads and eye-brows, and round foreheads: their eye-lids are conſtantly half cloſed, to keep the flies out, which are exceſſively troubleſome here: they have large bottle noſes, thick lips, and wide mouths. Both men and women, old and young, want the two fore-teeth of the upper jaw; but whether they draw them, I am not able to tell: they have no beards, but black ſhort curled hair, like the African Negroes, and are as black as thoſe. Their weapons are a ſort of wooden cutlaſs; inſtead of a lance, they have a ſtrait pole, ſharpened and hardened at the end. Of their language, I can ſay nothing, but that they ſpeak pretty much in the throat. We landed ſeveral times, and at laſt brought them to ſomething of a familiarity with us, by giving them ſome old cloaths; but could never prevail with them to give us the leaſt aſſiſtance, in carrying water, or otherwiſe, they being very much averſe to working."

In conſequence of the reputation Captain Dampier had acquired by this voyage, he was fixed on to command a ſhip fitted out purpoſely to proſecute diſcoveries in the Southern Ocean; and ſailed from England on that deſign, January 14, 1699, in his Majeſty's ſhip Roebuck, mounting 12 guns, the ſhip's company conſiſting of fifty men and boys.

On the 5th of Auguſt in the ſame year, he again fell in with New Holland, where he ſpent five weeks in ranging along its weſt coaſt, to the extent of 300 leagues.

The firſt anchorage he made, was in Shark's Bay, ſo named by him from the abundance of that voracious fiſh he found there, in latitude 25° South. He deſcribes the country about this bay, as pretty high land, the ſhore ſteep towards the ſea; the ſoil, by the ſea ſide, ſand, producing a large kind of ſamphire, with a white flower; further in he found the ſoil reddiſh, mixed with ſand, producing ſome graſs, ſhrubs, and buſhes, the graſs grew in tufts, about the ſize of a buſhel, intermixed with heath.

The trees and ſhrubs were of divers ſorts, but none exceeded ten feet in height; the bodies about three feet in girth; the heads ſtruck out at about ſix feet from the ground, and were buſhy, thick ſet, and full of long and narrow leaves. Some of theſe trees were ſweet-ſcented, reddiſh within the bark, like ſaſſafras, but ſomewhat darker. Moſt of the trees and ſhrubs had, at that time, either bloſſoms or berries on them. The bloſſoms were moſtly blue, intermixed with red, white, yellow, &c. and ſmelt very ſweet and fragrant.

There were but few land fowls; of the larger ſort only eagles were ſeen, and of the ſmaller, there were five or ſix ſpecies, from the ſize of a wren, to that of a lark, but all ſinging with a variety of fine ſhrill notes.

The land animals they ſaw were, a ſort of maccroons, but differing from thoſe of the Weſt Indies, chiefly in their legs, upon which they jump as the reſt of their ſpecies do; theſe were found very good meat. There was alſo a ſort of guanas, but differing from them in ſome particulars; "For theſe," ſays Captain Dampier, "had a larger and more frightful head, and had no tail: and at the rump, where a tail ſhould have been placed, there appeared ſomething reſembling a head, but without mouth or eyes: their legs alſo differed from other creatures of the ſame kind, by their appearing to be ſo made, as to carry the body either way; which, with the particular before-mentioned, might make a common ſpectator apprehend that this creature had two heads. They are ſpeckled black and yellow, like toads, and had ſcales on their backs, like crocodiles; are very ſlow in motion, and when a man comes

comes nigh them, will ſtand ſtill and hiſs, without endeavouring to get away; and the body when opened, hath a very unſavoury ſmell. I never ſaw ſuch ugly creatures any where but here. The guanas, in other parts, I have obſerved to be very good meat, and have often eat of them, with great ſatisfaction; yet I believe the quickeſt ſenſe of hunger would not have tempted me to taſte the guana of New Holland.

"The ſea-fiſh ſeen here were, beſides ſharks, of which there are great abundance, ſkates, thornbacks, and other fiſh, of the prey kind, (one ſort eſpecially like the ſea-devil) with guard-fiſh, bonatos, &c. Of ſhell-fiſh, we got muſſels, periwinkles, limpets, oyſters, both of the pearl kind, and ſuch as are eatable, beſides cockles, &c. The ſhore was lined thick with many other ſorts of very beautiful ſhells, of variety of colour and ſhape, moſt beautifully ſpotted with red, yellow, &c. There are alſo ſome green turtles.

"We anchored in three ſeveral places in this bay, on the weſt ſide. We ſearched for freſh water but found none; however, we found ſome wood for fuel. The 14th of Auguſt we ſailed out of Shark's Bay, to the north-eaſt, coaſting along the ſhore. The 18th we ſaw abundance of whales near a ſhoal point, in latitude 22° 22′ At noon on the 21ſt, bearing in ſouth-eaſt-by-eaſt, the land appeared like a cape, but anchoring about five leagues from the Bluff Point, it proved the eaſt end of an iſle, ſix leagues in length and one in breadth, being ſurrounded on all ſides with many other ſmall rocky iſles, which in all appearance are a range of iſlands, ſtretching from north-eaſt to weſt-ſouth-weſt, perhaps as far as Shark's Bay, and nine or ten leagues in breadth towards New Holland. We went on ſhore in the iſle of Bluff Point, where we found two or three ſhrubs, one like roſemary, whence I call it Roſemary Iſle; and two ſorts of grain like beans, one growing on buſhes, the other on a kind of creeping vine.

"Auguſt 30, we made the land again in latitude 18° 21′, and ſaw many great ſmokes near the ſhore. At four in the afternoon I anchored in eight fathom water, clear ſand, about three leagues and a half from the ſhore. On the 31ſt early in the morning I went aſhore, with ten or twelve men, to ſearch for water. We went armed with muſkets and cutlaſſes for our defence, expecting to ſee people there,

and

and carried alſo ſhovels and pick-axes to dig wells. When we came near the ſhore, we ſaw three tall, black, naked men on the ſandy bay a-head of us; but as we rowed in they went away. When we were landed, I ſent the boat with two men in her, to lie a little from the ſhore at anchor, to prevent her being ſeized, while the reſt of us went after the three black men, who were now got to the top of a ſmall hill, about a quarter of a mile from us, with eight or nine men more in their company. They ſeeing us come, ran away. When we came to the top of the hill, where they firſt ſtood, we ſaw a plain ſavanna about half a mile from us. Farther in from the ſea, there were ſeveral things like haycocks ſtanding in the ſavanna, which, at a diſtance, we thought were houſes, but we found them to be ſo many rocks. We ſearched about theſe for water, but could find none; nor any houſe, nor people, for they were all gone. Then we turned again to the place where we landed, and there we dug for water. While we were at work, there came nine or ten of the natives, to a ſmall hill, a little way from us, and ſtood there, menacing and threatning, and making a great noiſe. At laſt one of them came towards us, and the reſt followed at a great diſtance. I went out to meet him, and came within fifty yards of him, making to him all the ſigns of peace and friendſhip I could; but then he ran away, neither would any of them ſtay for us to come nigh them, though we tried three or four times. At laſt I took two men with me, and went in the afternoon along the ſea-ſide, on purpoſe to catch one of them if I could, of whom I might learn where they got their freſh water. There were ten or twelve of the natives a little way off, who ſeeing us three going away from the reſt of our men, followed us. I thought they would follow us, but there being for a while a ſand bank between us and them, that they could not ſee us, we made a halt, and hid ourſelves in a bending of the ſand bank. They knew we muſt be thereabouts; and being three or four times our number, thought to ſeize us: ſo they diſperſed themſelves, ſome going to the ſea-ſhore, and others beating about the ſand-hills. We knew by what rencounter we had with them in the morning, we could eaſily out-run them; ſo a nimble young man that was with me, ſeeing ſome of them there, ran towards them, and they, for ſome time, ran away before him,

but

but he ſoon overtaking them, they faced about, and fought him. He had a cutlaſs, and they had wooden lances, with which, being many of them, they were too hard for him. When he firſt ran towards them, I chaſed two more, that were by the ſhore; but, fearing how it might be with my young man, I turned back quickly, and went up to the top of a ſandy hill, whence I ſaw him near me, and cloſely engaged with them. Upon their ſeeing me, one of them threw a lance, which narrowly miſſed me. I diſcharged my gun to ſcare them; but avoided ſhooting any of them, till finding my young man in great danger, and myſelf in ſome, and that though the gun had a little frighted them at firſt, they had ſoon learnt to deſpiſe it, toſſing up their hands, and crying, pooh, pooh, pooh, and coming on a-freſh with a great noiſe, I thought it high time to charge a-freſh, and ſhoot one of them, which I did. The reſt, ſeeing him fall, made a ſtand; and my young man took the opportunity to diſengage himſelf, and come off to me. They took up their wounded companion; and my young man, who had been ſtruck through the cheek by one of their lances was afraid it was poiſoned, but I did not think that likely. His wound was very painful to him, being made with a blunt weapon; but he ſoon recovered of it. Among the New Hollanders whom we were thus engaged with, there was one, who by his appearance and carriage both in the morning and afternoon, ſeemed to be the chief of them, and a kind of prince or captain among them. He was a young briſk man, not very tall, nor ſo perſonable as ſome of the reſt, though more active and courageous. He was painted, which none of the reſt were at all, with a circle of white pigment; a ſort of lime, as we thought, about his eyes, and a white ſtreak down his noſe, from his forehead to the tip of it; and his breaſt, and ſome part of his arms, were alſo made white with the ſame paint; not for beauty or ornament, one would think; but as ſome wild Indian warriors are ſaid to do, he ſeemed thereby to deſign the looking more terrible, this his painting adding very much to his natural deformity, for they all of them have the moſt unpleaſant looks, and the worſt features, of any people I ever ſaw, though I have ſeen great variety of ſavages. Theſe New Hollanders were probably the ſame ſort of people as thoſe I met with on this coaſt in my voyage round the globe; for the place I then

touched at was not above forty or fifty leagues to the north-eaſt of this; and theſe were much the ſame blinking creatures; but we had not the opportunity to ſee whether theſe, as the former, wanted two of their fore teeth: the lances alſo of theſe, were ſuch as the former had."

The want of freſh proviſions and water, with the progreſs of the ſcurvy among his people, obliged Captain Dampier to leave this coaſt after having in about five weeks, ranged down it to the extent of about 300 leagues; and he leaves us this general deſcription of the country: "The lands are ſo fenced by a chain of ſand-hills towards the ſea, that there is no ſuch thing as diſcerning what lies beyond them; at high-water the tides riſe ſo ſurprizingly along this coaſt, that the land appears very low; but at low-water it appears of an indifferent height; but then the ſhore is ſo rocky that there is no ſuch thing as landing with a boat; but at high-water a boat may very eaſily come in over all thoſe rocks to the ſandy bay which ſurrounds this coaſt. The land for about five or ſix hundred yards from the ſea, is of a dryiſh, ſandy ſoil, with nothing but a few ſhrubs or buſhes, which, when I was there, ſeemed to be in bloom, bearing flowers of ſeveral colours, ſuch as yellow, blue and white, of a very fragrant ſmell; and as to their fruit, they ſeem to be a kind of peas or beans. Farther within land the country ſeemed to be low and level, partly ſavannas, and partly woodland; the former affords a coarſe kind of graſs, and the latter groves of trees, that are ſmall, and not above twelve or fourteen feet high. There are very few land-animals; ſome lizards I ſaw; and ſome of my ſeamen ſaw two or three creatures not unlike wolves, but ſo lean, that they looked like mere ſkeletons. As for land-fowls, there are crows, hawks, kites, and turtle doves, that are ſmall, but very plump and fat. The ſea-fowls are pelicans, boobies, noddies, curlieus, ſea-pies, in great numbers. There are abundance of whales in theſe ſeas, and thoſe of the large kind. We ſaw alſo green turtle, and ſome ſharks, and caught, with hooks and lines, ſome rock-fiſh and old wives. Of ſhell-fiſh we found here oyſters, of the pearl kind, and fit for eating; with wilks, muſſels, limpits, periwinkles, and many other ſorts; and I gathered ſome curious ſhells on the ſhore."

Hitherto we have been confined to the weſtern coaſt of New Holland, and are obliged to Captain Dampier for the principal part of our know-

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ledge of its ſoil, productions, fiſheries or inhabitants. Not that we are to ſuppoſe, that other commanders, who viſited it, were deficient in their inquiries. The contrary is clearly the caſe, eſpecially with reſpect to Captain Carpenter, who diſcovered the great bay or gulph of Carpentaria, and made a very ſucceſsful voyage; and alſo of Captain Taſman, who, ſailing along the weſt and ſouth coaſts, and doubling the ſouthern point of the country, called by him Van Diemen's Land, moſt probably viſited a part of the eaſt coaſt of New Holland, before he proceeded to the ſouth end of New Guinea, which country he paſſed on the north-eaſt-ſide on his return to Batavia. The fact is, that the diſcoveries of their own countrymen have been ſuppreſſed by, and even the property ſeized, and the perſons impriſoned, of thoſe of them who have ſailed in theſe latitudes without permiſſion, of the Dutch Eaſt-India Company. "It has appeared (ſays that judicious collector Dr. Harris *) very ſtrange to ſome very able judges of voyages, that the Dutch ſhould make ſo great account of the ſouthern countries as to cauſe the map of them to be laid down in the pavement of the Stadthouſe at Amſterdam, and yet publiſh no deſcriptions of them. This myſtery was a good deal heighthened by one of the ſhips that firſt touched on Carpenter's Land bringing home a rich cargo of gold, ſpices, and other rich goods: in order to clear up which it was ſaid, that theſe were not the product of the country, but were fiſhed out of the wreck of a large ſhip that was loſt on the coaſt. But this ſtory did not ſatisfy the inquiſitive, becauſe not attended with the circumſtances neceſſary to eſtabliſh its credit; and therefore they ſuggeſted, that inſtead of taking away the obſcurity, by relating the truth, this tale was invented in order to hide it more effectually. This ſuſpicion gained ground the more, when it was known the Dutch Eaſt-India Company from Batavia had made ſome attempts to conquer a part of the ſouthern continent, and had been repulſed with loſs."

The north-eaſt ſide of New Guinea has been often viſited by Europeans, and there are extant ſeveral accounts of it, as the imperfect one of De Quiros, before-mentioned; Schovten has left a much fuller deſcription of it; and Dampier, after he left the coaſt of New Hol-

* See his Collection of Voyages and Travels, Vol. I. p. 320.

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land ranged along it for about twenty-five degrees of longitude keeping a ſouth-eaſterly courſe, till having ſurrounded the iſland of New-Britain he returned back to Timor to refit. But, to return to our narrative.

The late Captain Cook has left us the fulleſt deſcription of this country of any European who has viſited it. In his Voyage round the World, after exploring a great number of places, 'till then unknown, and having made ſome ſtay among the New Zealanders, he ſailed from Cape Farewell in New Zealand on the 31ſt of March, 1770, and fell in, on the 19th of April, with the Eaſt Coaſt of New Holland in lat. 38° ſouth, about 6 degrees to the northward of Van Diemen's Land, or the ſouth cape of this extenſive tract of country.

From this time to the end of Auguſt, Captain Cook ſpent in making an accurate ſurvey of the coaſt, to the latitude of 10° 39′ a courſe of upwards of 2000 miles. During this run he frequently ſet up the Britiſh flag on the ſhore, and, with the uſual ſolemnities, took poſſeſſion of it for his Majeſty King George III. under the name of New South-Wales. He ſays, this country is of a larger extent than any other in the known world, not bearing the name of a continent, its ſquare ſurface being much more than equal to all Europe.

The land to the ſouthward of 33° or 34° is in general low and level; farther northward it is hilly, but in no part can be called mountainous, and the hills and mountains, taken together, make but a ſmall part of the ſurface, in compariſon with the vallies and plains. It is upon the whole rather barren than fertile, yet the riſing ground is chequered with woods and lawns, and the vallies and plains are in many places covered with herbage; the ſoil is frequently ſandy, and many of the lawns and ſavannas are rocky and barren, eſpecially to the northward, where, in the beſt ſpots, vegetation was leſs vigorous than in the ſouthern part of the country. The graſs in general, is high, but thin; and the trees, where largeſt, are ſeldom leſs than forty feet aſunder. The banks of the bays are covered with mangroves to the diſtance of a mile within the beach, under which the ſoil is a rank mud, that is always overflowed by a ſpring tide. There are ſome bogs farther in the country, where the graſs is thick and luxuriant, and ſome vallies clothed with underwood. The coaſt,

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at leaſt that part which lies to the northward of 25° abounds with fine harbours and bays, where veſſels may lie in perfect ſecurity from all winds.

The country has the appearance of being well watered, as there are innumerable ſmall brooks and ſprings, though no great rivers; yet theſe brooks probably might be conſiderably increaſed in rainy weather, it being the height of the dry ſeaſon when Captain Cook viſited it.

There is little variety of trees, and only two that can be termed timber; of theſe the largeſt is the Gum-tree, which grows all over the country; it has narrow leaves, not much unlike a willow, and the gum, or rather reſin, which it yields is of a deep red, and reſembles the *ſanguis draconis*. The other timber tree, is that which grows ſomewhat like our pines. The wood of both trees is extremely hard and heavy. Here are alſo trees covered with a ſoft bark, which is eaſily peeled off, and is the ſame that is uſed for caulking ſhips in the Eaſt-Indies.

They found the palm of three different ſorts, the firſt has leaves plaited like a fan; the cabbage ſmall, but exquiſitely ſweet; and the nuts, which it bears in great abundance, is good food for hogs. The ſecond ſort bears a much greater reſemblance to the true cabbage-tree of the Weſt Indies, its leaves large and pinnated, like thoſe of the cocoa-nut, theſe alſo produce a cabbage, which though not ſo ſweet as the former, is much larger. The third ſort ſeldom grows more than ten feet high, has ſmall pinnated leaves, like thoſe of ſome ſorts of fern; it bore no cabbage, but a plentiful crop of nuts, about the ſize of a large cheſnut, but rounder. Beſides theſe there are ſeveral ſmall trees, and ſhrubs, altogether unknown in Europe; of which one bears a very poor kind of fig; another a fruit reſembling a plumb in colour, but not in ſhape, being flat on the ſides, like a little cheeſe; and a third bears a kind of purple apple, which, after it has been kept a few days, becomes eatable, and taſtes ſomewhat like a damaſcene.

Of the great variety of plants produced here, few ſeem of the eſculent kind: there is one reſembling the coccos of the Weſt-Indies, and a kind of bean; to which may be added, a ſort of parſley, and purſelain, and two kinds of yams, one ſhaped like a radiſh, and the other

round, and covered with ſtingy fibres; both ſorts are very ſmall but ſweet.

The quadrupeds obſerved in this country are but few; conſiſting of dogs; and an animal called by the natives kanguroo, which, when full grown is as big as a ſheep; the head, neck, and ſhoulders very ſmall in proportion to the other parts of the body; the tail nearly as long as the body, thick near the rump, and tapering towards the end; the fore legs of one that was killed by Mr. Gore, which was a young one, and much under its full growth, meaſured only eight inches, while the hinder ones were two-and-twenty inches long; it goes in an erect poſture, and its motion is by ſucceſſive leaps, or hops, of a great length; the fore legs are kept bent cloſe to the breaſt, and ſeemed to be of uſe only in digging; the ſkin is covered with a ſhort fur, of a dark mouſe, or grey colour, excepting the head and ears, which bear a ſlight reſemblance to thoſe of a hare: There is alſo an animal of the opoſſum kind, reſembling the phalanger of Buffon; and one reſembling a pole-cat, which the natives call quoll, the back of which is brown, ſpotted with white, and the belly white unmixed. Some of Captain Cook's people affirmed they had alſo ſeen ſome wolves.

The land-birds are crows, parrots, paroquets, cockatoos, and other birds of the ſame kind, of exquiſite beauty; eagles, hawks, cranes, herons, buſtards, quails, doves, and innumerable flocks of pigeons. The water-fowl are gulls, ſhaggs, ſoland geeſe, or gannets, of two ſorts; boobies, noddies, curlieus, ducks, pelicans, and many other ſorts.

Among other reptiles, there are ſerpents of various kinds, ſome noxious, and ſome harmleſs; ſcorpions, centipieds, and lizards. The inſects are but few; the principal are the muſquito and the ant. Of the ant there are ſeveral ſorts; ſome are as green as a leaf, and live upon trees, where they build their neſts of various ſizes, between that of a man's head and his fiſt. Theſe neſts are of a very curious ſtructure, being formed by bending down ſeveral of the leaves, each of which is as broad as a man's hand, and gluing the points of them together, ſo as to form a purſe; the viſcus uſed for this purpoſe, is an animal juice, which nature has enabled them to elaborate. Another

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ſort are quite black; their habitations are the inſide of the branches of a tree, which they contrive to excavate by working out the pith, almoſt to the extremity of the twigs, the tree at the ſame time flouriſhing, as if it had no ſuch inmate. A third ſort is found neſted in the root of a plant which grows on the bark of trees in the manner of miſletoe, and is about the ſize of a large turnip; this root they perforate, and yet the vegetation of the plant does not appear to ſuffer any injury. Theſe three ſorts are all furniſhed with ſtings, ſome of them not leſs powerful than that of a bee, but the pain ſoon ſubſides. There is a fourth kind, which are perfectly harmleſs, and almoſt exactly reſemble the white ant of the Eaſt-Indies; whoſe architecture is ſtill more curious than that of the others. They have houſes of two ſorts, the one is ſuſpended on the branches of trees, and the other is erected on the ground. Thoſe upon the trees are three or four times as big as a man's head, and are built of a brittle ſubſtance, which ſeems to conſiſt of ſmall parts of vegetables kneaded together with a glutinous matter, which their bodies probably ſupply; upon breaking this cruſt, innumerable cells, ſwarming with inhabitants, appear in a great variety of winding directions, all communicating with each other, and with ſeveral apertures that lead to other neſts upon the ſame tree; and alſo one large avenue, or covered way, leading to the ground, and carried on under it to the neſt or houſe that is conſtructed there. Theſe houſes are generally at the root of a tree, but not of that upon which their other dwellings are conſtructed; they are of different ſizes, are formed like irregular-ſided cones, and ſometimes of more than ſix feet high. The outſide of theſe is of well tempered clay, about two inches thick, and is proof againſt any wet that can fall; within are the cells, which have no opening outwards, but communicate only with the ſubterranean paſſage to the houſes on the tree, and to the tree on which they are conſtructed, where they aſcend up the trunk and branches, under covered ways of the ſame kind as thoſe by which they deſcended from their other dwellings.

The ſea is much more liberal of food to the inhabitants than the land. The fiſh are of various ſorts; but, except the mullet, and ſome of the ſhell-fiſh, none of them are known in Europe, but moſt of them are palatable, and ſome are very delicious. Upon the ſhoals

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and reefs there are incredible numbers of the fineſt green turtle in the world, and oyſters of various kinds, particularly the rock-oyſter and the pearl-oyſter; there are alſo cockles of a gigantic ſize, and ſea cray-fiſh, or lobſters, and crabs. In the rivers and ſalt creeks there are alligators

The number of inhabitants appears to be very ſmall in proportion to the extent of the country. Captain Cook never ſaw ſo many as thirty of them together, but once, during his whole range down this extenſive coaſt. It is true the internal part of the country, remains unexplored; but as, with all his reſearches, he did not meet with one foot of ground in a ſtate of cultivation, he concluded thoſe of the inhabitants with whom he converſed to be ignorant of that art, which could hardly have been the caſe, had they had any communication with any body of people, living in land, as theſe latter could not ſubſiſt, without ſome mode of cultivating the earth.

The only tribe of inhabitants with whom Captain Cook had any intercourſe was in Endeavour river, where the ſhip was careened, which conſiſted of twelve men, ſeven women, one boy, and one girl. The men were of a middle ſize, and in general well made, clean-limbed, and remarkably vigorous, active, and nimble; their countenances not altogether without expreſſion, but their voices remarkably ſoft and effeminate. Their colour, is nearly that of chocolate; their features far from diſagreeable, their noſes not flat, nor their lips thick; their teeth are white and even, and their hair naturally long and black, but univerſally cropped ſhort; their beards are of the ſame colour as their hair, buſhy and thick, but not ſuffered to grow long. From their want of ſharp inſtruments, and ſome particular appearances, Captain Cook concluded, that they kept the hair, both of their heads and beards, ſhort by ſingeing.

Both ſexes go ſtark naked, and ſeem to have no more ſenſe of indecency in diſcovering the whole body, than Europeans expreſs in leaving the hands and face uncovered. Their principal ornament is a bone, which they thruſt through the cartilage that divides the noſtrils from each other. As this bone is as thick as a man's finger, and nearly ſix inches long, it reaches quite acroſs the face, and ſo effectually ſtops up both the noſtrils, that they are obliged to keep their

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mouths wide open for breath, and when they ſpeak, they ſnuffle ſo that they are ſcarcely intelligible to each other. Captain Cook's ſeamen humouroſly called this bone, their ſpritſail-yard. Beſides this noſe-jewel, they had necklaces made of ſhells, very neatly cut and ſtrung together; bracelets of ſmall cord, wound two or three times about the upper part of the arm, and a ſtring of plaited human hair, tied round the waiſt; ſome of them had alſo gorgets of ſhells hanging round the neck ſo as to reach croſs the breaſt. But though theſe people wear no clothes, their bodies have a covering, for they paint them both white and red. The red is commonly laid on in broad patches upon the ſhoulder and breaſt; and the white in ſtripes, ſome narrow and ſome broad; the narrow are drawn over the limbs, and the broad over the body, not without ſome degree of taſte. The white is alſo laid on in ſmall patches upon the face, and drawn in a circle round each eye.

There is not the leaſt appearance of a town or village in the whole country. The beſt of their houſes, if they may be termed houſes, are juſt high enough to ſit upright in, but not large enough for a man to extend himſelf in any direction; they are built with pliable rods, about the thickneſs of a man's finger, in the form of an oven, by ſticking the two ends in the ground, and are covered with palm leaves, and ſmall pieces of bark: the door is nothing but a large hole at one end, oppoſite to which the fire is made. Under theſe houſes, or ſheds, they ſleep, with their heels coiled up to their heads, and in this poſition one of them may hold three or four perſons.

The only furniture belonging to theſe houſes is a kind of oblong veſſel made of bark, by the ſimple contrivance of tying up the two ends with a withy, which not being cut off, ſerves for a handle. The inhabitants have alſo a ſmall bag, about the ſize of a moderate cabbage-net, which the man carries on his back, by the help of a ſmall ſtring which paſſes over his head: it generally contains a lump or two of paint and reſin, ſome fiſh-hooks and lines, a ſhell or two, out of which their hooks are made, a few points of darts, and their uſual ornaments, which includes the whole treaſure of the richeſt men among them.

The only weapons found among theſe people are ſpears or lances, ſome of which have four prongs, pointed with bone, and barbed; the

points are ſmeared with a hard reſin, which gives them a poliſh, and makes them enter deeper into what they ſtrike. Other lances have but one point, the ſhaft is made of cane, or the ſtalk of a plant ſomewhat reſembling a bulruſh, very ſtrait and light, and from eight to fourteen feet long. Theſe ſhafts conſiſt of ſeveral joints, where the pieces are let into each other, and bound together; to theſe are fitted points of different kinds, ſome being of a hard heavy wood, and others of the bones of fiſh. Theſe weapons are thrown with great force and dexterity; if intended to wound at a ſhort diſtance, as from ten to twenty yards, ſimply with the hand, but if at the diſtance of forty or fifty yards, then with a throwing ſtick, with the aſſiſtance of which the lance flies with incredible ſwiftneſs, and with ſo good an aim that, at the diſtance of fifty yards, the natives are as ſure of their mark, as the moſt expert markſman can be with a ſingle bullet.

The canoes of New Holland are as mean as their houſes. Thoſe on the ſouthern part of the coaſt are nothing more than a piece of bark, tied together at the ends, and kept open in the middle by ſmall bows of wood; yet in theſe veſſels there are ſometimes three perſons. In ſhallow water they make uſe of a pole, in deeper of paddles, about eighteen inches long, one of which the boatman holds in each hand. More to the northward, the canoes are made of the trunk of a tree, hollowed out, moſt probably by fire; are about fourteen feet in length, and, being very narrow, are fitted with an out-rigger, to prevent their over-ſetting; the outſide is wholly unmarked by any tool, but at each end the wood is left longer at the top than at the bottom, ſo that there is a projection beyond the hollow part, like the end of a plank; the ſides are tolerably thin. Thoſe are worked with paddles, that are ſo large as to require both hands to manage one of them.

The principal food of the inhabitants, is fiſh, though they ſometimes contrive to kill the kanguroo, and birds of various kinds. Thoſe they dreſs by broiling upon coals, or by baking in a hole, by the help of hot ſtones, for there is no appearance of their eating any animal food raw. The only vegetable that can be conſidered as an article of food is the yam; though they poſſibly may eat of thoſe few fruits the country produces.

BOTANY BAY, where the intended ſettlement is to be made, lies in latitude 34° ſouth, longitude from Greenwich 151° 23′, eaſt. "It is, in the words of Captain Cook, capacious, ſafe, and convenient, and may be known by the land on the ſea-coaſt, which is nearly level, and of a moderate height; in general higher than it is farther inland, with ſteep rocky cliffs next the ſea, which have the appearance of a long iſland lying cloſe under the ſhore. The harbour lies about the middle of this land, and in approaching it from the ſouthward, is diſcovered before the ſhip comes a-breaſt of it; but from the northward, it is not diſcovered ſo ſoon: the entrance is a little more than a quarter of a mile broad, and lies in W. N. W. To ſail into it the ſouthern ſhore ſhould be kept on board, till the ſhip is within a ſmall bare iſland, which lies cloſe under the north ſhore; within this iſland the deepeſt water on that ſide is ſeven fathom, ſhallowing to five a good way up. At a conſiderable diſtance from the ſouth ſhore there is a ſhoal, reaching from the inner ſouth point, quite to the head of the harbour; but over towards the north and north-weſt ſhore there is a channel of twelve or fourteen feet at low water, for three or four leagues, up to a place where there is three or four fathom, but here I found very little freſh water. We anchored near the ſouth ſhore about a mile within the entrance, for the convenience of ſailing with a ſoutherly wind, and becauſe I thought it the beſt ſituation for watering; but I afterwards found a very fine ſtream on the north ſhore, in the firſt ſandy cove within the iſland, before which a ſhip might lie almoſt land locked, and procure wood as well as water, in great abundance. Wood indeed is every where plenty, but I ſaw only two kinds which may be conſidered as timber. Theſe trees are as large or larger than the Engliſh oak, and one of them has not a very different appearance, this is the ſame that yields the reddiſh gum, like *ſanguis draconis*, and the wood is heavy, hard, and dark-coloured, like *lignum vitæ*: the other grows tall, and ſtrait, ſomething like the pine; and the wood of this, which has ſome reſemblance to the live oak of America, is alſo hard and heavy. There are few ſhrubs and ſeveral kinds of the palm; mangroves alſo grow in great plenty near the head of the bay. The woods abound with birds of exquiſite beauty, particularly of the parrot kind; we found alſo crows here, exactly the

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ſame with thoſe in England. About the head of the harbour, where there are lage flats of ſand and mud, there is great plenty of water-fowl, moſt of which were altogether unknown to us: one of the moſt remarkable was black and white, much larger than a ſwan, and in ſhape ſomewhat reſembling a pelican. On theſe banks of ſand and mud there are great quantities of oyſters, muſſels, cockles, and other ſhell-fiſh, which ſeem to be the principal ſubſiſtence of the inhabitants, who go into ſhoal water in their little canoes, and pick them out with their hands."

As it was in this bay that Captain Cook and his company had the greateſt opportunity of obſerving the manners of the inhabitants, as well as of exploring the adjacent country, we ſhall here preſent our readers with a narrative of their tranſactions during their ſtay in it, from the captain's journal.

" April 28, 1770. The place where the ſhip had anchored, was a-breaſt of a ſmall village, conſiſting of about ſix or eight houſes; and while we were preparing to hoiſt out the boat, we ſaw an old woman followed by three children, come out of the wood; ſhe was loaded with fire-wood, and each of the children had alſo it's little burthen; when ſhe came to the houſes, three more children, younger than the others, came out to meet her: ſhe often looked at the ſhip, but expreſſed neither fear nor ſurprize: in a ſhort time ſhe kindled a fire, and four canoes came in from fiſhing. The men landed, and having hauled up their boats, began to dreſs their dinner, to all appearance wholly unconcerned about us, though we were within half a mile of them. We thought it remarkable that of all the people we had yet ſeen, not one had the leaſt appearance of clothing, the old woman herſelf being deſtitute even of a fig-leaf.

" After dinner the boats were manned, and we ſet out from the ſhip, having Tupia of our party. We intended to land where we ſaw the people, and began to hope that as they had ſo little regarded the ſhip's coming into the bay, they would as little regard our coming on ſhore: in this however we were diſappointed; for as ſoon as we approached the rocks, two of the men came down upon them to diſpute our landing, and the reſt ran away. Each of the two champions was armed with a lance about ten feet long, and a ſhort ſtick, which he

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ſeemed to handle as if it was a machine to aſſiſt in managing or throwing the lance: they calling out to us in a very loud tone, and in a harſh diſſonant language, of which neither we nor Tupia underſtood a ſingle word: they brandiſhed their weapons, and ſeemed reſolved to defend their coaſt to the uttermoſt, though they were but two, and we were forty. I could not but admire their courage, and being unwilling hoſtilities ſhould commence with ſuch inequality of force between us, I ordered the boat to lie upon her oars: we then parlied by ſigns for about a quarter of an hour, and to beſpeak their good-will, I threw them nails, beads, and other trifles, which they took up and ſeemed to be well pleaſed with. I then made ſigns that I wanted water, and by all the means that I could deviſe, endeavoured to convince them that we would do them no harm: they now waved to us, and I was willing to interpret it as an invitation; but upon our putting the boat in, they came again to oppoſe us. One appeared to be a youth, about nineteen or twenty, the other a man of middle age: as I had now no other reſource, I fired a muſket between them. Upon the report, the younger dropped a bundle of lances upon the rock, but recollecting himſelf in an inſtant, he ſnatched them up again in great haſte: a ſtone was then thrown at us, upon which I ordered a muſket to be fired with ſmall ſhot, which ſtruck the eldeſt upon the legs, and he immediately ran to one of the houſes, which was diſtant about an hundred yards: I now hoped that our conteſt was over, and we immediately landed; but we had ſcarcely left the boat when he returned, and we then perceived that he had left the rock only to fetch a ſhield or target for his defence. As ſoon as he came up, he threw a lance at us, and his comrade another; they fell where we ſtood thickeſt, but happily hurt nobody. A third muſket with ſmall ſhot was then fired at them, upon which one of them threw another lance and both immediately ran away: if we had purſued, we might probably have taken one of them; but Mr. Banks ſuggeſting that the lances might be poiſoned, I thought it not prudent to venture into the wood. We repaired immediately to the huts, in one of which we found the children, who had hidden themſelves behind a ſhield and ſome bark; we peeped at them, but left them in their retreat, without their knowing that they had been diſcovered, and, we threw into the houſe, when we went away, ſome beads, ribbons, pieces of cloth, and other

preſents, which we hoped would procure us the good-will of the inhabitants, when they ſhould return; but the lances which we found lying about, we took away with us, to the number of about fifty: they were from ſix to fifteen feet long, and all of them had four prongs, in the manner of a fiſh-gigg, each of which was pointed with fiſh-bone, and very ſharp: we obſerved that they were ſmeared with a viſcous ſubſtance of a green colour, which favoured the opinion of their being poiſoned, though we afterwards diſcovered that it was a miſtake: they appeared, by the ſea weed that we found ſticking to them, to have been uſed in ſtriking fiſh. Upon examining the canoes that lay upon the beach, we found them to be the worſt we had ever ſeen: they were between twelve and fourteen feet long, and made of the bark of a tree in one piece, which was drawn together and tied up at each end, the middle being kept open by ſticks which were placed acroſs them from gunwale to gunwale a-thwarts. We then ſearched for freſh water, but found none, except in a ſmall hole which had been dug in the ſand.

" Having reimbarked in our boat, we depoſited our lances aboard, and then went over to the north point of the bay, where we had ſeen ſeveral of the inhabitants when we were entering it, but which we now found totally deſerted.

" April 29th. In the morning I ſent a party of men on ſhore, in order to dig holes in the ſand where the water might gather; but going aſhore myſelf with the gentlemen ſoon afterwards, we found, upon a more diligent ſearch, a ſmall ſtream more than ſufficient for our purpoſe.

" Upon viſiting the hut where we had ſeen the children, we were greatly mortified to find that the beads and ribbons which we had left there the night before had not been moved from their places, and that not an Indian was to be ſeen.

" Having ſent ſome empty water-caſks on ſhore, and left a party of men to cut wood, I went myſelf in the pinnace to ſound and examine the bay; during my excurſion I ſaw ſeveral of the natives, but they all fled at my approach. In one of the places where I landed I found ſeveral ſmall fires, and freſh muſſels broiling upon them; here alſo I found ſome of the largeſt oyſter-ſhells I had ever ſeen.

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" As ſoon as the wooders and waterers came on board to dinner, ten or twelve of the natives came down to the place, and looked with great attention and curioſity at the caſks, but did not touch them: they took away however the canoes which lay near the landing-place, and again diſappeared. In the afternoon, when our people were again on ſhore, ſixteen or eighteen Indians, all armed, came boldly within about an hundred yards of them, and then ſtopped: two of them advanced ſomewhat nearer; and Mr. Hicks, who commanded the party on ſhore, with another, advanced to meet them, and expreſſing kindneſs and amity by every ſign he could think of, but all without effect; for before he could get up with them they retired, and it would have anſwered no purpoſe to purſue.

" April 30th. The next morning, before day-break, the Indians came down to the houſes that were a-breaſt of the ſhip, and were heard frequently to ſhout very loud. As ſoon as it was light, they were ſeen walking along the beach; and ſoon after they retired to the woods, where, at the diſtance of about a mile from the ſhore, they kindled ſeveral fires.

" Our people went on ſhore as uſual, and with them Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander, who, in ſearch of plants, repaired to the woods. Our men, who were employed in cutting graſs, being the fartheſt removed from the main body of the people, a company of fourteen or fifteen Indians advanced towards them, having ſticks in their hands, which, according to the report of the ſerjeant of marines, ſhone like a muſquet. The graſs-cutters, upon ſeeing them approach, drew together, and repaired to the main body. The Indians, being encouraged by this appearance of a flight, purſued them; they ſtopped however, when they were within about a furlong of them, and after ſhouting ſeveral times went back into the woods. In the evening they came again in the ſame manner, ſtopped at the ſame diſtance, ſhouted and retired. I followed them myſelf, alone and unarmed, for a conſiderable way along the ſhore, but I could not prevail upon them to ſtop.

" May 1. This day we reſolved to make an excurſion into the country. Mr. Banks, Dr. Solander, myſelf, and ſeven others, properly accoutred for the expedition, ſet out, and repaired firſt to the huts near the watering place, whither ſome of the natives continued every day to reſort; and though the little preſents which we left there

before

before were not yet taken away, we left others of ſomewhat more value, conſiſting of cloth, looking-glaſſes, combs, and beads, and then went up into the country. We found the ſoil to be either ſwamp or light ſand, and the face of the country finely diverſified by wood and lawn. The trees are tall, ſtrait, and without underwood, ſtanding at ſuch a diſtance from each other that the whole country, at leaſt where the ſwamps do not render it incapable of cultivation, might be cultivated without cutting down one of them; between the trees the ground is covered with graſs, of which there is great abundance, growing in tufts about as big as can well be graſped in the hand, which ſtand very cloſe to each other. We ſaw many houſes of the inhabitants, and places where they had ſlept upon the graſs without any ſhelter; but we ſaw only one of the people, who the moment he diſcovered us ran away. At all theſe places we left preſents, hoping that at length they might produce confidence and good-will. We had a tranſcient and imperfect view of a quadruped about as big as a rabbit: Mr. Banks's greyhound, which was with us, got ſight of it, and would probably have caught it, but the moment he ſet off he lamed himſelf, againſt a ſtump which lay concealed in the long graſs. We afterwards ſaw the dung of an animal which fed upon graſs, and which we judged could not be leſs than a deer; and the footſteps of another, which was clawed like a dog, and ſeemed to be about as big as a wolf: we alſo tracked a ſmall animal, whoſe foot reſembled that of a polecat or weaſel. The trees over our heads abounded with birds of various kinds, among which were many of exquiſite beauty, particularly loriquets and cockatoos, which flew in flocks of ſeveral ſcores together. We found ſome wood which had been felled by the natives with ſome blunt inſtrument, and ſome that had been barked. The trees were not of many ſpecies, but in ſome of them ſteps had been cut at about the diſtance of three feet from each other, for the convenience of climbing them.

"From this excurſion we returned between three and four o'clock, and having dined on board, we went aſhore again at the watering-place, where a party of men were filling caſks. Mr. Gore, the ſecond lieutenant, had been ſent out in the morning with a boat to dredge for oyſters at the head of the bay; when he had performed this ſervice, he went aſhore, and having taken a midſhipman with him, and ſent the boat

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" May 2. In the afternoon we made another excurſion along the ſea-coaſt to the ſouthward: Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander gathered many plants, but beſide theſe we ſaw nothing worthy of notice. At our firſt entering the woods, we met with three of the natives, who inſtantly ran away: more of them were ſeen by ſome of the people, but they all diſappeared with great precipitation, as ſoon as they found that they were diſcovered. By the boldneſs of theſe people at our firſt landing, and the terror that ſeized them at the ſight of us afterwards, it appears that they were ſufficiently intimidated with our fire-arms;

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not that we had any reaſon to think the people much hurt by the ſmall ſhot we were obliged to fire at them, when they attacked us at our coming out of the boat; but they had probably ſeen the effects of them from their lurking places, upon the birds that we had ſhot. Tupia, who was now become a good markſman, frequently ſtrayed from us to ſhoot parrots; and he had told us, that while he was thus employed, he had once met with nine Indians, who, as ſoon as they perceived he ſaw them, ran from him in great confuſion and terror.

"May 3. Twelve canoes, in each of which there was a ſingle Indian, came towards the watering-place, and were within half a mile of it, a conſiderable time: they were employed in ſtriking fiſh, upon which, like others that we had ſeen before, they were ſo intent, that they ſeemed to regard nothing elſe. It happened, however, that a party of our people were out a ſhooting near the place, and one of the men, whoſe curioſity might at length perhaps be rouſed by the report of the fowling pieces, was obſerved by Mr. Banks to haul up his canoe upon the beach, and go towards the ſhooting party: in ſomething more than a quarter of an hour he returned, launched his canoe, and went off in her to his companions. This incident makes it probable, that the natives acquired a knowledge of the deſtructive power of our fire-arms, when we knew nothing of the matter; for this man was not ſeen by any of the party whoſe operations he had reconnoitred.

"While Mr. Banks was gathering plants near the watering place, I went with Dr. Solander and Mr. Monkhouſe to the head of the bay, that I might examine that part of the country, and make farther attempts to form ſome connection with the natives. In our way we met with eleven or twelve ſmall canoes, with each a man in it, probably the ſame who were afterwards abreaſt of the ſhore, who all made into ſhoal water upon our approach. We met other Indians on the ſhore, the firſt time we landed, who inſtantly took to their canoes and paddled away. We went up the country to ſome diſtance, and found the face of it nearly the ſame with that which has been deſcribed already, but the ſoil was much richer; for inſtead of ſand, I found a deep black mould, which I thought very fit for the production of grain of any kind. In the woods we found a tree which bore fruit that in colour and ſhape reſembled a cherry; the juice had an agreeable tartneſs, though but

little

little flavour. We found alſo interſperſed ſome of the fineſt meadows in the world: ſome places however were rocky, but theſe were comparatively few: the ſtone is ſandy, and might be uſed with advantage for building. When we returned to the boat, we ſaw ſome ſmoke upon another part of the coaſt, and went thither, in hopes of meeting with the people, but at our approach, theſe alſo ran away. We found ſix ſmall canoes, and ſix fires very near the beach, with ſome muſſels roaſting upon them, and a few oyſters lying near: By this we judged that there had been one man in each canoe, who having picked up ſome ſhell-fiſh, had come on ſhore to eat it, and made his ſeparate fire for that purpoſe: we taſted of their cheer, and left them in return ſome ſtrings of beads, and other things which we thought would pleaſe them.

"May 4. I ſent ſeveral parties into the country to try again whether ſome intercourſe could not be eſtabliſhed with the natives. A midſhipman belonging to one of theſe parties having ſtraggled a long way from his companions, met with a very old man and woman, and ſome little children; they were ſitting under a tree by the water ſide, and neither party ſaw the other till they were cloſe together: the Indians ſhewed ſigns of fear, but did not attempt to run away. The man happened to have nothing to give them but a parrot that he had ſhot; this he offered, but they refuſed to accept it, withdrawing themſelves from his hand either through fear or averſion. His ſtay with them was but ſhort, for he ſaw ſeveral canoes near the beach fiſhing, and being alone, he feared they might come aſhore and attack him: he ſaid that theſe people were very dark coloured, but not black; that the man and woman appeared to be very old, being both grey-headed; that the hair of the man's head was buſhy, and his beard long and rough; that the woman's hair was cropped ſhort, and both of them were ſtark naked. Mr. Monkhouſe the ſurgeon, and one of the men, who were with another party near the watering-place, alſo ſtrayed from their companions, and as they were coming out of a thicket, obſerved ſix Indians ſtanding together, at the diſtance of about fifty yards. One of them pronounced a word very loud, which was ſuppoſed to be a ſignal, for a lance was immediately thrown at him out of the wood, which very narrowly miſſed him. When the Indians ſaw that the weapon had not taken effect, they ran away with

the greateſt precipitation; but turning about towards the place whence the lance had been thrown, he ſaw a young Indian, whom he judged to be about nineteen or twenty years old, come down from a tree, and he alſo ran away with ſuch ſpeed as made it hopeleſs to follow him. Mr. Monkhouſe was of opinion, that he had been watched by theſe Indians in his paſſage through the thicket; and that the youth had been ſtationed in the tree, to diſcharge the lance at him, upon a ſignal, as he ſhould come by; but however this be, there could be no doubt but that he was the perſon who threw the lance.

" In the afternoon I went myſelf, with a party, over to the north ſhore, and while ſome of our people were hauling the ſeine, we made an excurſion a few miles into the country, proceeding afterwards in the direction of the coaſt. We found this place without wood, and ſomewhat reſembling our moors in England; the ſurface of the ground, however, was covered with a thin bruſh of plants, about as high as the knees: the hills near the coaſt are low, but others riſe behind them, increaſing by a gradual aſcent to a conſiderable diſtance, with marſhes and moraſſes between. When we returned to the boat, we found that our people had caught with the ſeine a great number of ſmall fiſh, which are well known in the Weſt-Indies, and which our ſailors call leather jackets, becauſe their ſkin is remarkably thick. I had ſent the ſecond lieutenant out in the yawl a ſtriking, and when we got back to the ſhip, we found that he alſo had been very ſucceſsful. He had obſerved that the large ſting-rays, of which there is great plenty in the bay, followed the flowing tide into very ſhallow water; he therefore took the opportunity of flood, and ſtruck ſeveral in not more than two or three feet water: one of them weighed no leſs than two hundred and forty pounds after his entrails were taken out.

" May 5. The wind ſtill continuing northerly, I ſent out the yawl again, and the people ſtruck one ſtill larger, for when his entrails were taken out he weighed three hundred and thirty-ſix pounds.

" May 6. At day-break we ſet ſail from Botany Bay, with a light breeze at north-weſt.

" During my ſtay in this harbour, I cauſed the Engliſh colours to be diſplayed on ſhore every day, and the ſhip's name, and the date of the year, to be inſcribed upon one of the trees near the watering-place.

" It

" It is high water here at the full and change of the moon about eight o'clock, and the tide riſes and falls perpendicularly between four and five feet."

On Captain Cook's laſt voyage he again viſited the coaſt of New Holland, which he approached from the ſouthward. On the 24th of January 1777, he fell in with Van Diemen's land, and the 26th anchored in Adventure Bay, in latitude 43° 21′ S. being about five degrees more to the ſouthward than that part of the land which he firſt ſaw on his courſe from New Zealand in the year 1770.

The uſual employments of wooding and watering took them up till the 28th; in the afternoon of which day, they were unexpectedly viſited by eight men and a boy, who approached them with the greateſt confidence, none of them having any weapons, except one, who had a ſhort ſtick, pointed at one end. Theſe appeared of a middling ſtature, and ſomewhat ſlender; their hair black and woolly, and their ſkin alſo black. They were entirely naked, with large punctures or ridges, ſome in curved, and others in ſtrait lines on different parts of their bodies; their lips not remarkably thick, nor their noſes very flat; their features on the contrary, being not unpleaſing, their eyes pretty good, and their teeth tolerably even and regular, though exceeding dirty. Some of them had painted their faces with a red ointment, and moſt of them had ſmeared their hair and their beards with the ſame compoſition. When preſents were offered them they received them without any apparent ſatisfaction. As the Captain wiſhed to know the uſe of the ſtick which one of the Indians held in his hand, he made ſigns to them to ſhew him; on which one of them took aim at a piece of wood placed as a mark, at the diſtance of twenty yards, but after ſeveral eſſays, he went ſtill wide of it.

After they retired, Captain Cook ordered two pigs, one a male, the other a female, to be carried about a mile within the woods, and he himſelf ſaw them left there, taking the utmoſt precaution that the natives ſhould not obſerve what was paſſing, as he feared they would deſtroy them, if ſoon found; and as ſwine ſoon become wild, and are fond of being in woods, it is probable they were preſerved.

A dead calm preventing the ſhips from ſailing, Captain Cook the next day, ſent ſome parties on ſhore to cut wood and graſs, who were

ſoon joined by about twenty of the natives. Some of theſe had a ſlip of the ſkin of a kangooroo round their ancles, and others wore, round their necks, ſome ſmall cord, made of fur. They ſeemed not to value iron, but were apparently pleaſed with the medals and beads given them. Juſt after Captain Cook had quitted this part, ſeveral women and children were introduced by the men to lieutenant King. Theſe females wore a kangooroo ſkin over their ſhoulders, the only uſe of which ſeemed to be, to ſupport their children on their backs, for it left thoſe parts uncovered, which modeſty directs us to conceal. Their bodies were black, and marked with ſcars, like the men, from whom, however, they differed in having their heads ſhaved; ſome of them being completely ſhorn, others only on one ſide, while the reſt of them had the upper part of the head ſhaved, leaving a very narrow circle of hair all round. The people now ſeen, differed in ſome reſpects, particularly in the texture of the hair, from the natives of the more northern part of this country, whom Captain Cook met with in his firſt voyage.

During the ſtay of the ſhips in this bay, Mr. Anderſon, the ſurgeon of the Reſolution, employed himſelf, with his uſual induſtry, in examining the country; and we ſhall here give our readers his account of its natural productions, and remarks on the inhabitants.

"There is a beautiful ſandy beach, about two miles long, at the bottom of Adventure Bay, formed, to all appearance, by the particles which the ſea waſhes from a fine white ſand-ſtone. This beach is very well adapted for hauling a ſeine. Behind it is a plain, with a brackiſh lake, out of which we caught, by angling, ſome bream and trout. The parts adjoining the bay are moſtly hilly, and are an entire foreſt of tall trees, rendered almoſt impaſſable by brakes of fern, ſhrubs, &c. The ſoil on the flat land, and on the lower part of the hills, is ſandy, or conſiſts of a yellowiſh earth, and in ſome parts of a reddiſh clay; but further up the hills, it is of a grey tough caſt. This country, upon the whole, bears many marks of being very dry, and the heat appears to be great. No mineral bodies, nor ſtones of any other kind than the white ſand ſtone, were obſerved by us; nor could we find any vegetables that afforded ſubſiſtence for man. The foreſt trees are all of one kind, and generally quite ſtrait: and bear cluſters of ſmall white flowers. The principal plants we obſerved, were wood-ſorrel,

milk-

milk-wort, cudweed, bell-flower, gladiolus, ſamphire, and ſeveral kinds of fern.

" The only quadruped we ſaw diſtinctly, was a ſpecies of opoſſum, about twice the ſize of a large rat. The kangooroo, found further northward in New Holland, may alſo be ſuppoſed to inhabit here, as ſome of the inhabitants had pieces of the ſkin of that animal.

" The principal ſorts of birds, in the woods, are brown hawks, or eagles, crows, large pigeons, yellowiſh paroquets, and a ſpecies, which we called *metacilla cyanea*, from the beautiful azure colour of its head and neck. On the ſhore were ſeveral gulls, black oyſter-catchers, or ſea-pies, and plovers of a ſtone colour.

" We obſerved in the woods ſome blackiſh ſnakes, that were pretty large, and we killed a lizard which was fifteen inches long, and ſix round, beautifully clouded with yellow and black.

" Among a variety of fiſh, we caught ſome large rays, nurſes, leather-jackets, bream, ſoles, flounders, gurnards and elephant-fiſh; beſides a ſort which we did not recollect to have ſeen before, and which partakes of the nature both of a round and a flat fiſh. Upon the rocks are muſſels and other ſhell-fiſh; and, upon the beach, we found ſome pretty meduſa's heads The moſt troubleſome inſects we met with were the muſquitoes, and a large black ant, whoſe bite inflicts extreme pain.

" The inhabitants ſeemed mild and chearful, with little of that wild appearance, that ſavages in general have. They are almoſt totally devoid of perſonal activity or genius, and are nearly upon a par with the wretched natives of Terra del Fuego. They diſplay, however, ſome contrivance in their method of cutting their arms and bodies in lines of different directions, raiſed above the ſurface of their ſkin. Their indifference for our preſents, their general inattention and want of curioſity, were very remarkable, and teſtified no acuteneſs of underſtanding. Their complection is a dull black, which they ſometimes heighten by ſmutting their bodies, as we ſuppoſed, from their leaving a mark behind, on any clean ſubſtance. Their hair is perfectly woolly, and is clotted with greaſe and red ocre, like that of the Hottentots. Their noſes are broad and full, and the lower part of their face projects conſiderably. Their eyes are of a moderate ſize, and though they are not very quick or piercing, they give the countenance a frank, chearful and

and pleaſing caſt. Their teeth are not very white, nor well ſet, and their mouths are too wide: they wear their beards long and clotted with paint. They are, upon the whole, well proportioned, though their belly is rather protuberant. Their favourite attitude is to ſtand with one ſide forward, and one hand graſping, acroſs the back, the oppoſite arm, which on this occaſion, hangs down by the ſide that projects.

" Near the ſhore in the bay, we obſerved ſome wretched conſtructions of ſticks, covered with bark; but theſe ſeem to have been only temporary, and they had converted many of their largeſt trees into more comfortable and commodious habitations. The trunks of theſe were hollowed out to the height of ſix or ſeven feet, by the means of fire. That they ſometimes dwell in them, was manifeſt, from their hearths in the middle, made of clay, round which four or five perſons might ſit. Theſe places of ſhelter are rendered durable, by their leaving one ſide of the tree ſound, ſo that it continues growing with great luxuriance.

" That the natives of Van Diemen's Land originate from the ſame ſtock with thoſe who inhabit the northern parts of New Holland, ſeem evident. Though they differ in many reſpects, their diſſimilarity may be reaſonably accounted for, from the united conſiderations of diſtance of place, length of time, total ſeparation, and diverſity of climate."

When we conſider the number of populous iſlands, in the Southern Ocean, which have been viſited by the Britiſh flag, under the auſpices of our moſt gracious Sovereign; the importance of a permanent ſettlement in that part of the world, in order to continue the friendly intercourſe we have already had with the inhabitants, as well as to enable us to enter into ſome commercial connections with them, will immediately appear to the mind of every intelligent perſon. Botany Bay having been fixed on for that pupoſe, we ſhall endeavour to point out a few particulars to ſhew its importance in that view.

Whoever takes the pains to examine the chart of the late Capt. Cook's diſcoveries, will find there is an open ſea from the Bay to the cluſter of iſlands called New Zealand, lying ſomewhat to the ſouthward of the eaſt, at the diſtance of about four hundred leagues. At about the ſame diſtance to the north-eaſt, lay the New Hebrides, a very moderate

derate diſtance from them, and under the ſame degree of latitude are the Friendly Iſlands, the Society Iſlands, and the Marqueſas Iſles. From theſe latter the run to the Sandwich Iſlands does not exceed eight hundred leagues; ſo that this whole tour ſcarcely equals a voyage from Great Britain to the Carribbee Iſlands and back. Its ſituation is well adapted for carrying on a trade between Nootka Sound and Cook's River, on the American coaſt, and the iſles of Japan and the Chineſe Empire, in ſea-otter's ſkins; as alſo to perfect the diſcoveries which have hitherto been made in that part of the globe, a matter which the late Captain King had much at heart*. Its neighbourhood alſo to New Guinea, and the adjacent iſles, may conduce to ſome diſcoveries, which in time may reinſtate this country in a ſhare of the ſpice trade; a trade which the Dutch Eaſt India Company have monopolized for near two centuries.

Should a war break out with the court of Spain, cruizers from Botany Bay might much interrupt, if not deſtroy, their lucrative commerce from the Philippine iſlands to Aquapulco; beſides alarming and diſtreſſing their ſettlements upon the weſt coaſt of South America.

In the foregoing accounts the country about the bay is repreſented as producing timber and ſtone for building, as alſo wood for firing; its ſoil as fit for the production of any kind of vegetable food; and the ſeas to abound with the moſt delicate fiſh. Should any object to the paucity of quadrupeds, it muſt be remarked, that a friendly intercourſe with the tropical iſlands will not only procure a ſupply of hogs for food, but alſo for ſtock. And as moſt of our navigators have aſſerted that the iſlands lying eaſtward of Borneo, are well ſtocked with cattle of the buffalo kind, a breed of thoſe, who are endemial to the climate, may be introduced, and in a few years, with the aſſiſtance of the hogs, there may be a ſufficient ſupply of animal food, not only for the uſe of the ſettlers, but alſo of thoſe who may be induced to viſit them.

* See Capt. Cook's laſt voyage, vol. 4. p. 246. Fielding's octavo edition.

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